

Klaus Ruge / Yann Sochaczewski / Carola Preuß

KNOCKING ON THE DOOR

SPECHTE IN IRLAND



Jahrestagung der AG Spechte der DO-G
26. - 28. März 2010
Dessau-Roßlau

RTÉ News

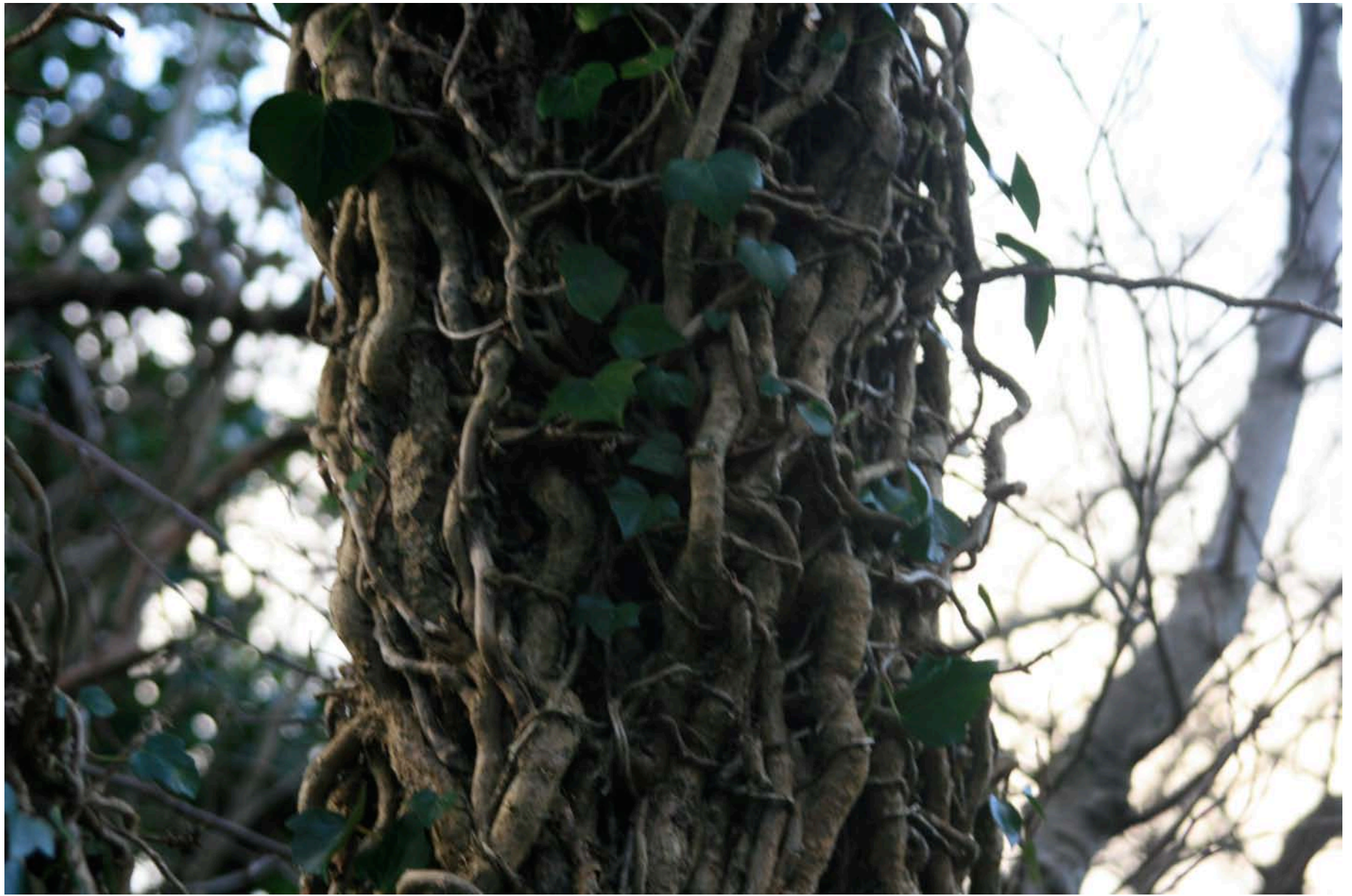
1.

Das spechtlose Land

























2.

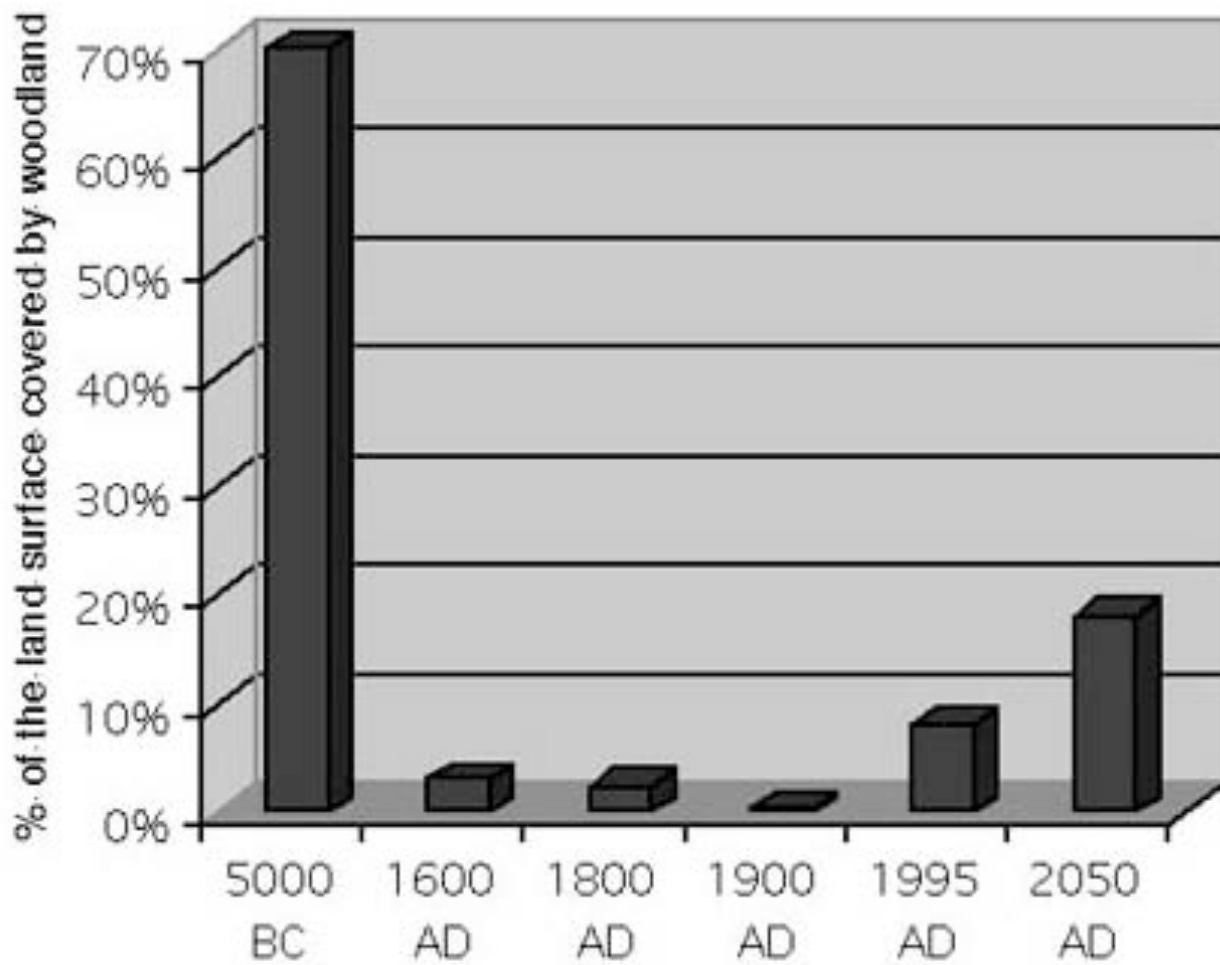
**Seit wann sind die Spechte als
Brutvögel ausgestorben?**

*„The woodpecker is very common in Ireland,
a bird of varying colours, white, black, red, blue;
it is beautiful, with a long tail, and a strong beak
and hooked nails with which it hollows out trees,
and in their hollows it builds its nest.“*

PHILIP O 'SULLIVAN BEARE, 1625

3.

Waldentwicklung in Irland



Forest Cover decline in Ireland to the 1900's and the projected forest cover by the year 2050 AD.



4.

Spechtinvasionen in Irland

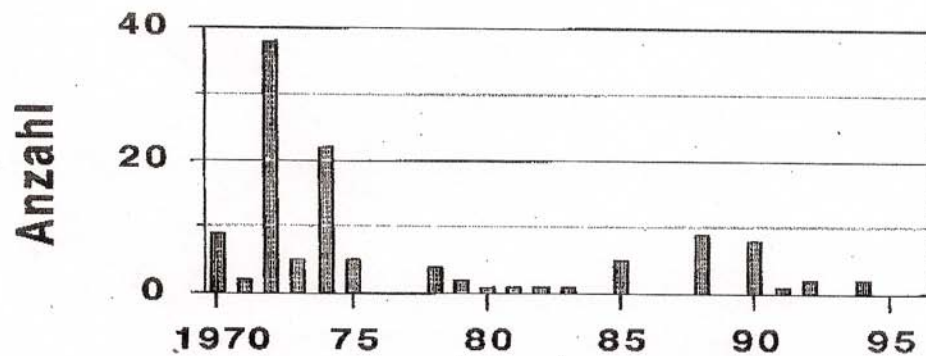


Abb. 1: Jahressummen auf Helgoland gefangener und beringter Buntspechte (1970 - 96)

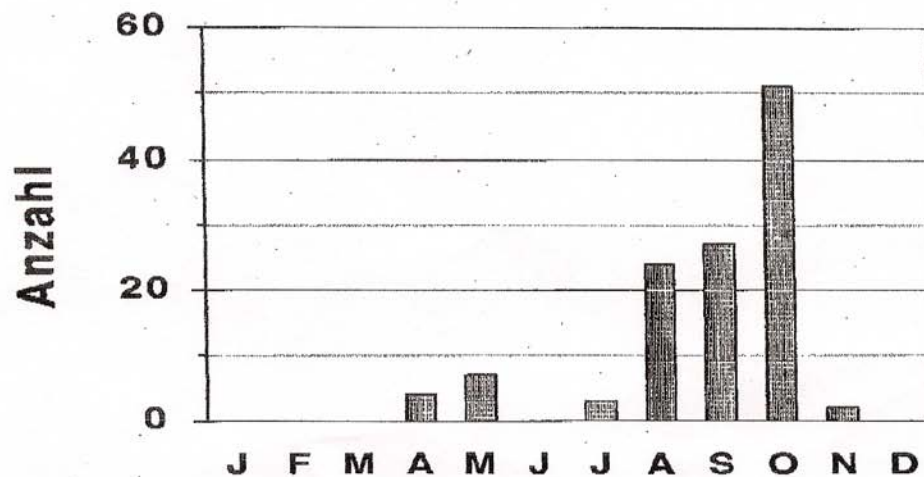


Abb. 2: Monatssummen auf Helgoland gefangener und beringter Buntspechte (1970 - 96)

Buntspechnachweise 1889/90^p

I R E L A N D

divided into
PROVINCES and COUNTIES
from the left
AUTHORITIES



- REFERENTIAL to the COUNTIES:
- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1 Antrim | 17 West Meath |
| 2 Down | 18 Longford |
| 3 Armagh | 19 Dublin |
| 4 Londonderry | 20 Wicklow |
| 5 Tyrone | 21 Kildare |
| 6 Downpatrick | 22 King's County |
| 7 Fermanagh | 23 Queens County |
| 8 Monaghan | 24 Kilkenny |
| 9 Carlow | 25 Carlow |
| 10 Wick | 26 Wickford |
| 11 Sligo | 27 Clare |
| 12 Leitrim | 28 Limerick |
| 13 Enniskillen | 29 Tipperary |
| 14 Galway | 30 Waterford |
| 15 Louth | 31 Cork |
| 16 Meath | 32 Kerry |

SPECHTINVASIONEN IN IRLAND

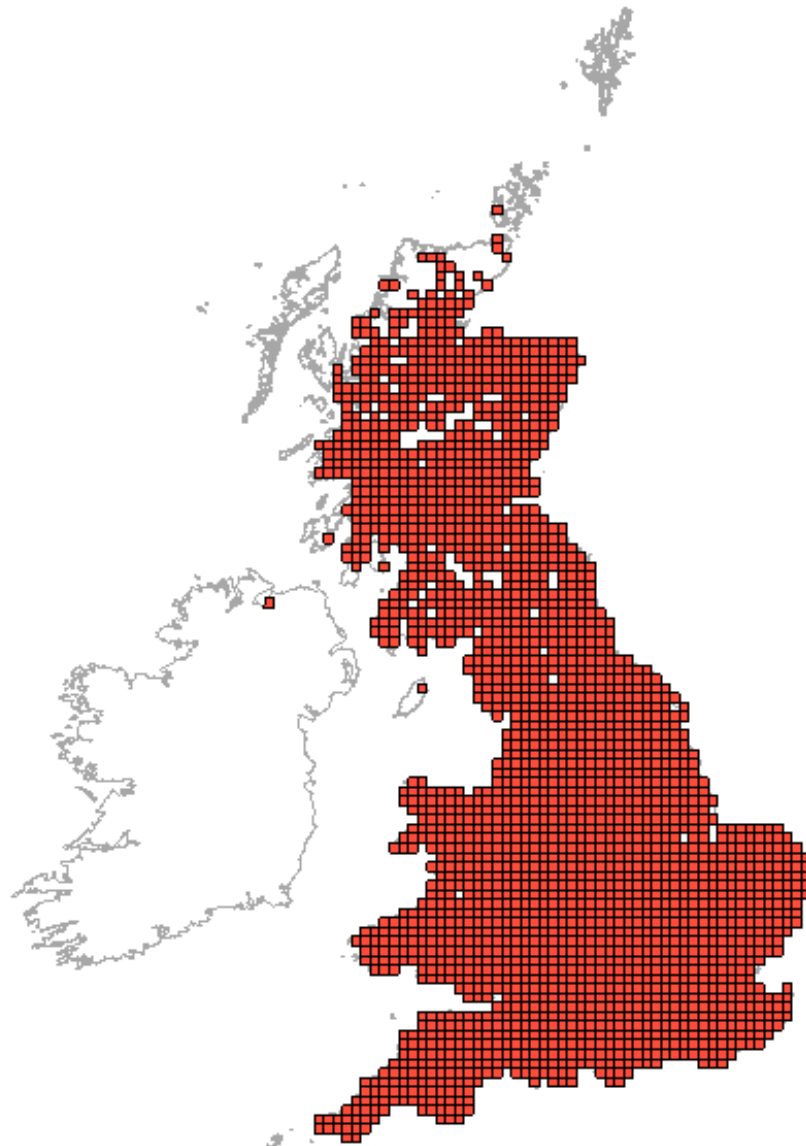
JAHR	ANZAHL
1889/90	9 (10)
1931	2 Vögel vom 10. bis 20. April in Antrim
1949/50	9 (Hutchinson 1989), 29 (Coomb 2009)
1957	1 (September)
1959	1 (Dezember)
1962/63	5
1968/69	29
1971	2
1972/73	15 (Helgoland 40)
1973/74	1
1978/79	1
1979 bis 89	keine Beobachtung
1989 – 2004	3 (Counties Down, Antrim, Wicklow)
2005	3
2006	6
2007	4
2005	September Jungvogel in Co. Wicklow
2007	Anfang Juni 1 Bsp. in Co. Wicklow
2008	20 (23 Vögel) davon 4 zwischen April und August

Datenquelle: C. D. Hutchinson 1989, Birds of Ireland; D. Coombs, Wings 2008, 2009; Internet, mdl.


5.

Hoffen auf den Buntspecht

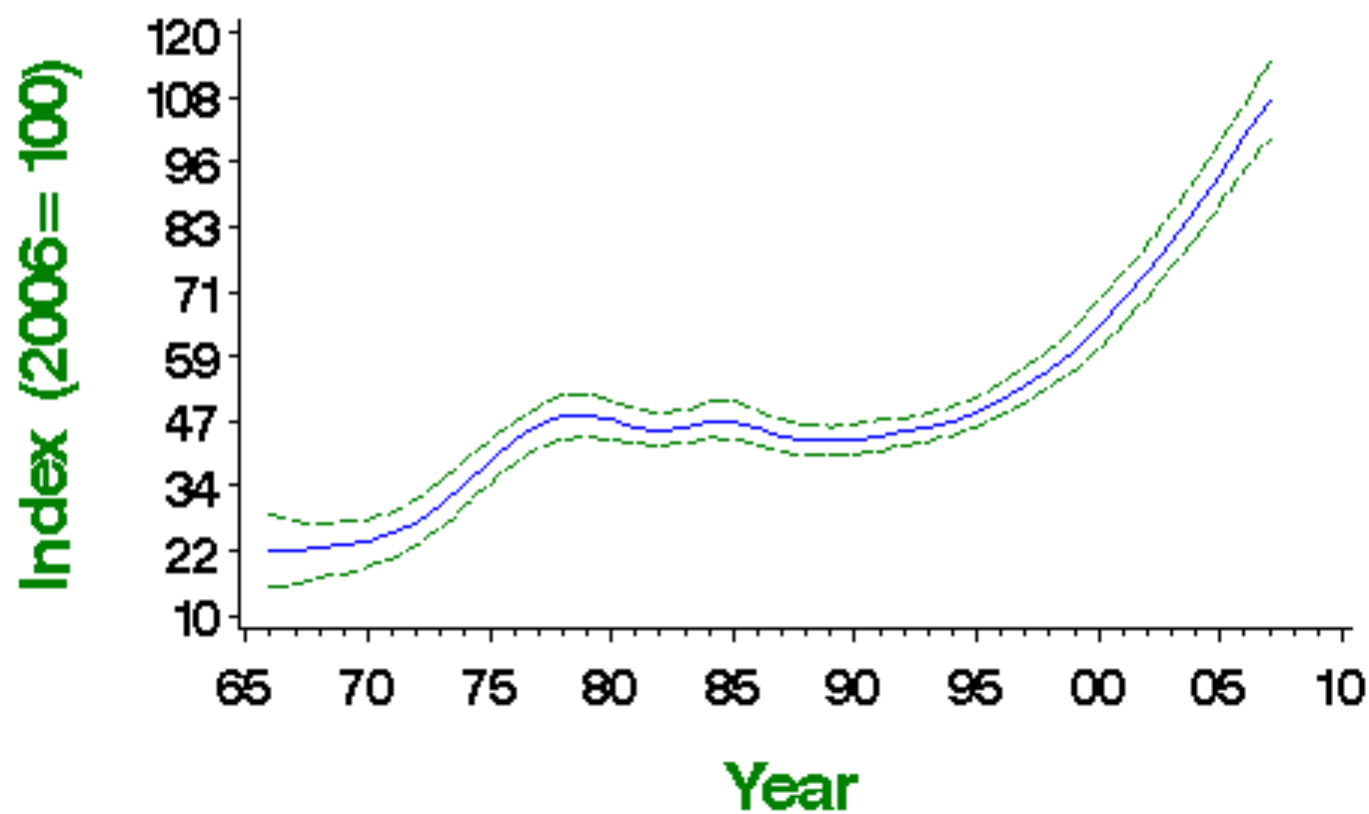
10km distribution of *Dendrocopos major* in Great Britain and Ireland



10km square legend

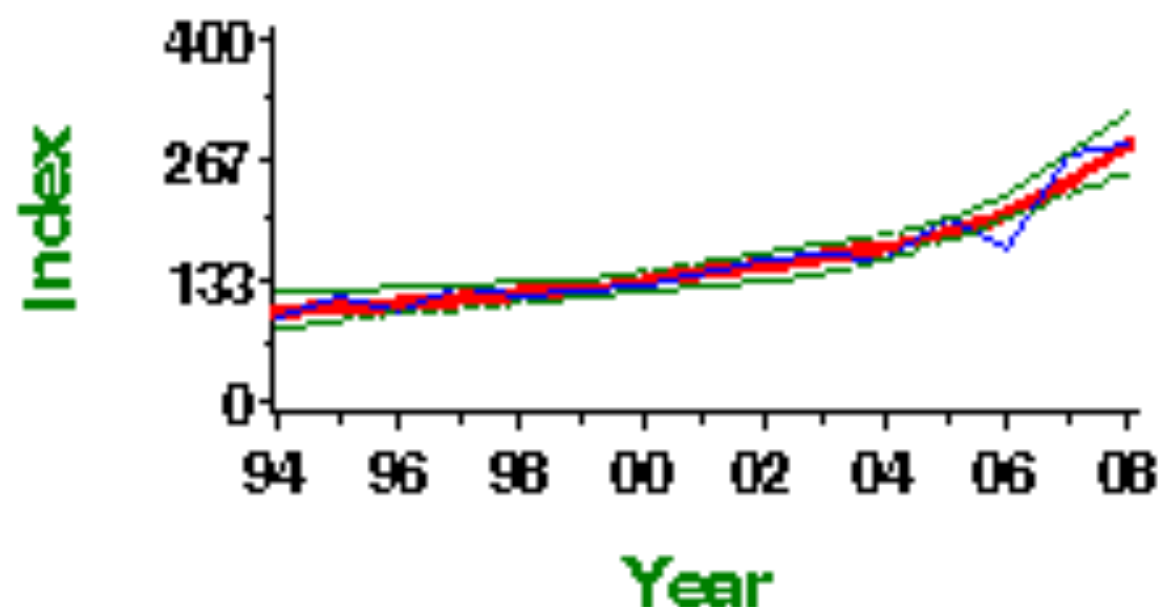
 Present in 10km squares

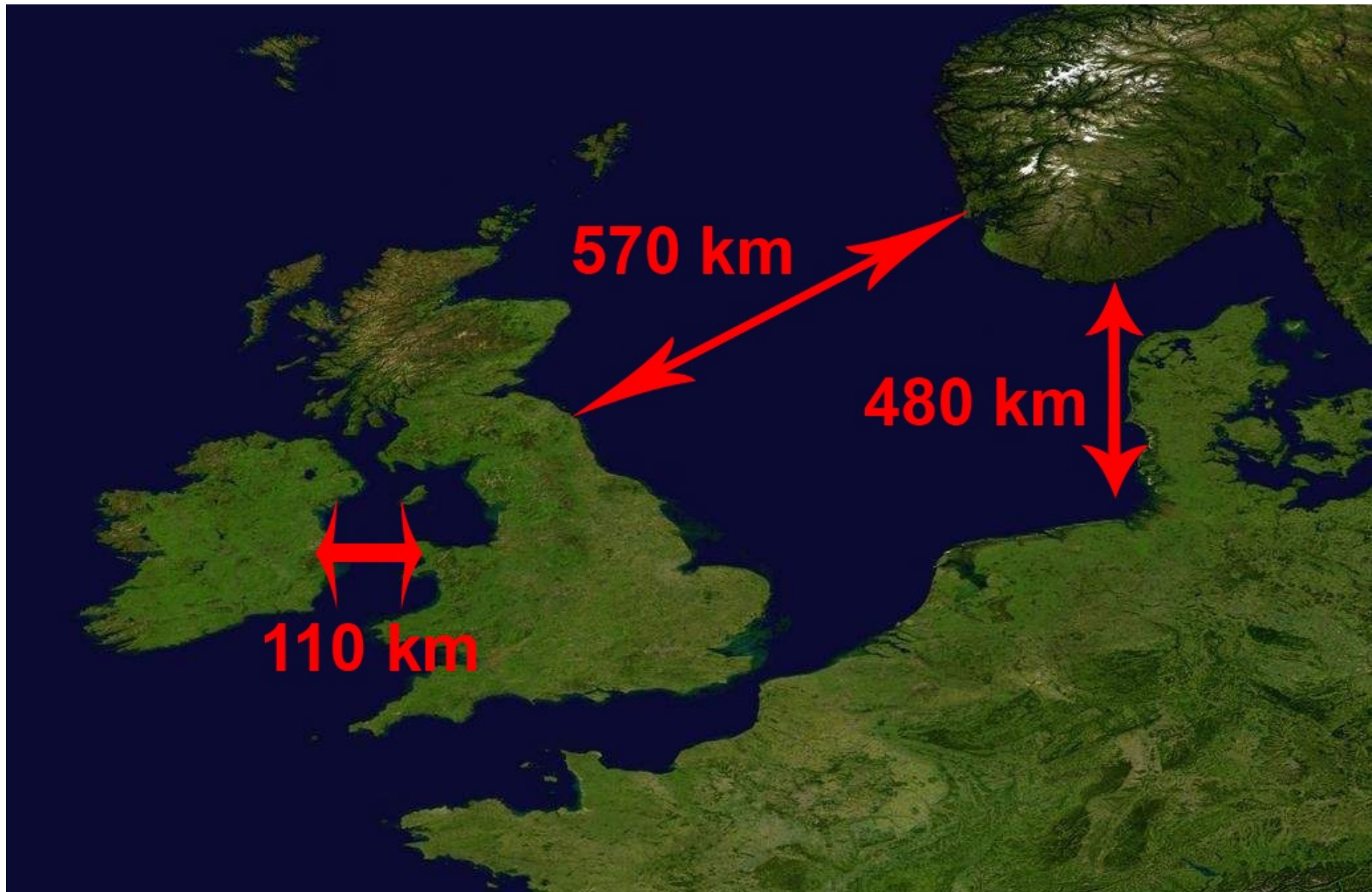
CBC/BBS UK 1966–2007
Great Spotted Woodpecker



BBS index for Wales 1994–2008

Great Spotted Woodpecker





6.

**Überlegungen zur künstlichen
Ansiedlung**



„It would appear that Mother Nature is one step ahead of us when it comes to the reintroduction of the great spotted woodpecker.”

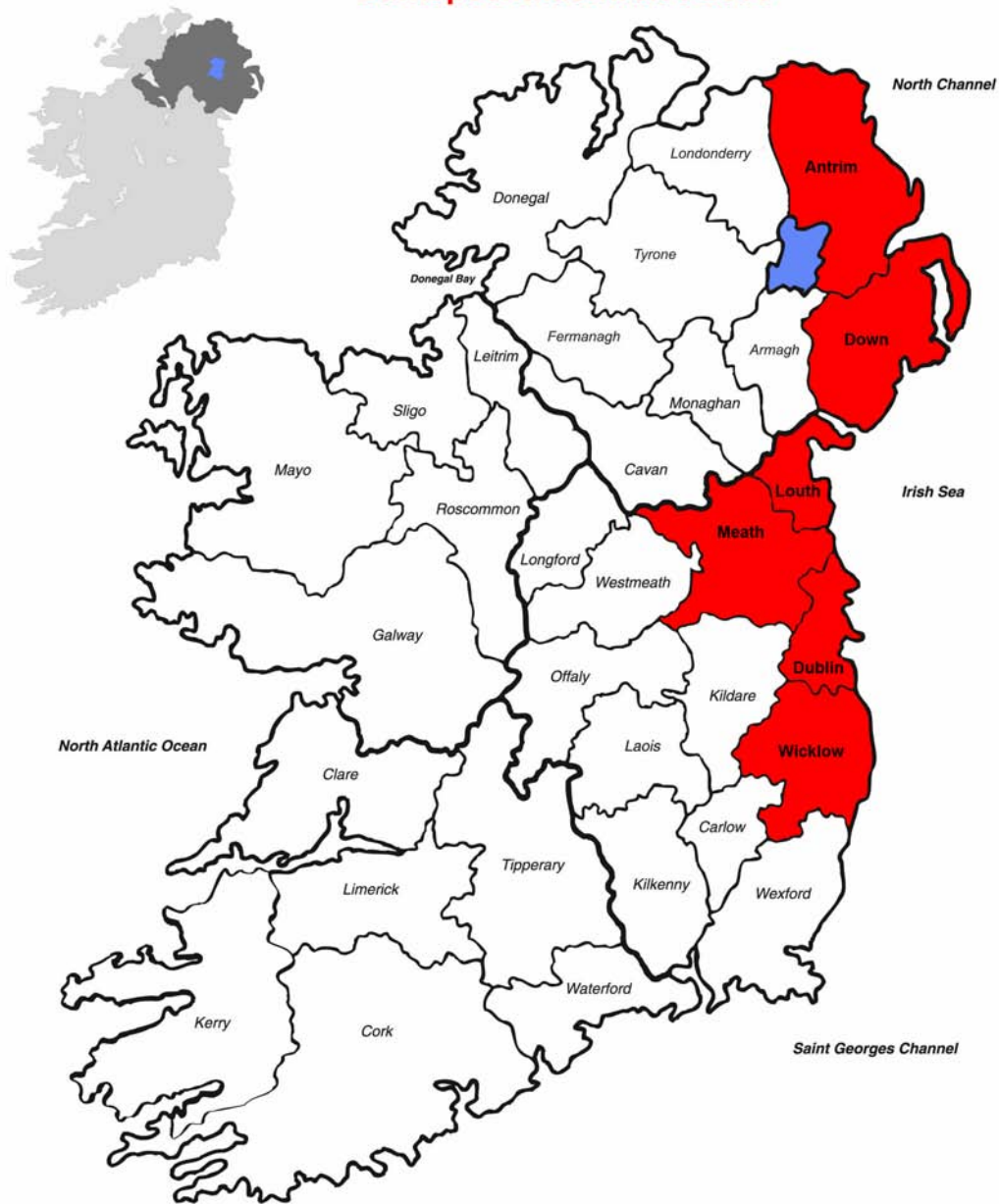
Conor Kelleher, IWT project leader

7.

**Knocking on the Door -
Buntspechte besiedeln Irland**

County Map of Ireland

Buntspechnachweise 2008



Spechtbeobachtungen 2008

- * Anfang April: Weibchen trommelnd Wicklow (Shillelagh)
 - * Einige Tage später: Männchen trommeln und gleich darauf zweites Männchen entdeckt
 - * Mitte April: Männchen und Weibchen bei Balz beobachtet
- Alle suchen → ohne Ergebnis
- * 25. Juli 2008 e-mail – junger Bsp- bei Brittas (Dublin)
 - * Kurz darauf ein weiterer bei Bray- südl. von Dublin im Co. Wicklow
 - * und dann noch einer im Co. Wicklow und zwei weitere Bsp. in Meath
 - * und Louth außerdem im Mai je ein Vogel auf der Insel Cape Clear und Great Saltee





8.

Irland im Spechtfieber

Spechtbeobachtungen 2009

- * 4 Tage vor St. Patrick's Day 3 Paare in anderen Gebieten der Wicklow Mountains
- * 21.3.09: 1 Paar beob. Wicklow
- * Suche nach weiteren Trommlern
- * 2. Mai Durchbruch: eine Nisthöhle gefunden, ein ad. Specht schaut raus
- * 10.5 Futtertragen beobachtet
- * 24. Mai 8 Höhlen bestätigt, eine davon leer
- * Ergebnis: 8 Bruten / 10 weitere Beobachtungen in Wicklow und weitere u.a. in Dublin und Kildare





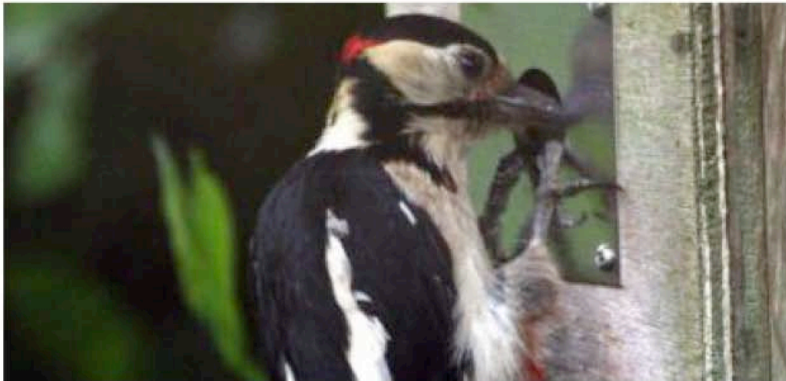


From The Sunday Times

November 23, 2008

Woodpeckers spotted again after 300-year absence

Conservation project suspended after Mother Nature reintroduces species to Irish woodlands



John Mooney

A PLAN by a conservation group to reintroduce the great spotted woodpecker to Irish woodlands has been put on hold following a natural influx of the bird from Britain and northern Europe.

The Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT) had planned to release woodpeckers into suitable woodland habitats to establish viable breeding populations. But the project has been suspended after sightings of adult and juvenile woodpeckers, or *dendrocopos major*, in several counties.

“It would appear that Mother Nature is one step ahead of us when it comes to the reintroduction of the great spotted woodpecker,” said Conor Kelleher, a conservationist leading the project.



nialltkeogh

Hi Breffni,

The UK and Scandinavian populations are both regarded either as distinct subspecies or strong clinal variants but as to whether the birds in Ireland are representatives from both these populations or not nobody can say for certain at the moment.

Hopefully a ringed bird gets retrapped on a headland soon!!!

Another question is, are the birds present at the moment all recent arrivals or have some woodpeckers been secretly breeding away without us knowing? (Or most likely, a combination of both?)

There has often been small irruptions of GSWoodpecker into Ireland during the winter months and I wonder if a few of the birds from the 2005/2006 autumn & winter "influx" (ie. 7 records) hung around since?

The bird which first turned up in the Howth area, Co. Dublin in autumn 2005 seems to be responsible for irregular reports of woodpeckers in that area up until March of this year (when heard drumming)...I saw a (regularly reported) female there in early 2006. Paul Kelly's shots of that bird here: http://www.irishbirdimages.com/pages/gallery/birdguide/birdguidepage_greatspottedwoodpecker.html

See ya,
Niall

Wednesday 6th May 2009, 18:54

A SHORT ARTICLE

Interesting, hop

lashinala

I'm so happy Norton's 'lonely irish woodpeckers' idea was finally appreciated. I'd say the niche is 'wide open' for them....breed away!

On a side note--I'm not sure some in Ireland grasp how much this could change the landscape in the next few centuries if they hold on.

Wednesday 6th May 2009, 19:29

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On a side note--I'm not sure some in Ireland grasp how much this could change the landscape in the next few centuries if they hold on..

As a keystone species they are likely to have a significant effect: creating nesting opportunities for cavity nesting woodland birds, possibly bats, impacting on tree ecology, possibly tree invertebrate ecology, competing with other woodland birds/species etc. assuming they get a hold.

DEREK CHARLES

Hi everyone.

Breeding Birds this

Derek

nialltkeogh
Hi Breffni,

As far as I'm aware there hasn't been a proven or published site in Ireland where the GS Woodpecker has been breeding in the summer. Despite this, it is likely that breeding did occur last year with the possibility of wandering juveniles from Britain or elsewhere in

breffni

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Hope this thread runs well.
I really enjoyed the last "why no woodpeckers in Ireland"
What happened to KnockerNorton

s. james

I believe they are breeding at one site in Northern Ireland (maybe someone could clarify this?).

Heard that they were breeding in Co Down, but forget (true bill- not just keeping it a secret!) the site mentioned, think it was near Strangford Lough.

Same guy said they were introduced down south, but that could well be just rumours.

Furthermore, a pair were seen chasing each other in suitable habitat in Co. Wicklow last spring so all in all one can say that last year breeding was most certainly PROBABLE (going by BTO Bird Atlas breeding codes, "H - in suitable nesting habitat", "S - Singing (in this case drumming) male", "P - Pair, suitable habitat", "D - courtship and display" etc.)

As for 2009, well there are up to 7 localities in Co. Wicklow that I know of where there is at least one drumming bird or a pair present. A pair was also seen copulating at one locality. Dick Coombes, Declan Murphy, Moray Souter, Andrew McMillan, Mick Boyle, Eanna O'Flynn & Ed O'Sullivan to name but a few are some of the Wicklow regulars who have been keeping an eye on the woodpeckers so far and I'm sure they will find (if not already) a nest hole with chicks this year. Again, this year, breeding is already likely to be PROBABLE.

All the potential breeding sites in 2009 can be found and are reported freely on www.irishbirding.com

- (1) "Carrigrohane" - male & female
- (2) "Rathdrum Wood" - drumming male
- (3) Both of the above sites may relate to the same general area
- (4) "Tomnafinoge Wood" - 2-3 birds drumming
- (5) "Tinahealy" - pair present (possibly 3 birds on site)
- (6) "Trappistown Wood" - male & female
- (7) "Kiluddery/Brey" - 2 drumming males (one regularly visiting a garden)
- (8) "Annamore" - pair, copulation observed

Some nice shots of the Tinahealy pair here:
http://www.irishbirding.com/birds/webTask=Display&ighting_id=10295

As for where they came from, last spring certainly seemed to suggest that birds are migrating into Ireland as seen with records from both Cape Clear & Great Saltee. In theory, one of the Wicklow birds would need to be caught, measured and possibly have a blood/feather sample taken to examine DNA or stable isotopes in order to assess origins or race. The Scandinavian birds are said to be more migratory than UK birds, thus more likely to turn up here but who knows for certain? Isn't there meant to be a range expansion in the UK at the moment?

There was some speculation as to whether or not the proposed re-introduction project of the GSWoodpecker went ahead under our noses but I'd imagine this is largely unfounded!!!

With historical evidence suggesting that the GSWoodpecker was present in Ireland centuries ago when forest cover was much greater, it would seem likely that they would re-colonise or be reintroduced in modern times following an improvement in the status of Irish woodlands.

I tend to believe that the current (re)colonisation of Ireland by GSWoodpeckers is due to a combination of possible factors: (1) Migratory birds have settled as a result of range expansions in Britain & on the continent, (2) migratory/wintering birds have chosen to stay in Wicklow woodlands for the summer as a result of an improvement in deciduous forest quality over the past number of years (Tomnafinoge being a prime example, where some excellent management is currently going on) and (3) 'global warming' has lead to an increase in biodiversity of the invertebrate fauna

breffni

Given that great spotted woodpeckers are now breeding in ireland (at least 10 active pairs now known), a few questions...

1. Where did they come from? Scandanavia or Wales or elsewhere?
2. Is this founder population sufficiently genetically diverse to be sustainable?
3. What is the impact of the reduced number of wood invertebrate species?

Thursday 7th May 2009, 13:36

Recently and the occasional Goshawk. There are also a several pairs of Great Spotted do," was his reply.

Thursday 7th May 2009, 19:38

Friday 8th May 2009, 09:54

Friday 8th May 2009, 18:19

ccess - presumably sooner or later someone will confirm this either way.

Saturday 9th May 2009, 00:03

Sunday 10th May 2009, 12:54

2009, 16:53

cross the with this, reached

2009, 09:10





“GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH”

(Irish Gaelic für “Vielen Dank”)